

MEETING MINUTES
NORTHWEST PORT CHARLOTTE WATERWAY ADVISORY COMMITTEE
December 12, 2011
2:30 p.m.

Attendees: Renee Larson, Jack Fawcett, Richard Hopkins, Stanley Bliss,
Ron Larrivee and Joseph Fabini

County: Dawn Harrison, Bob Halfhill

Guests: Jamie Cohlmeier from Coastal Engineering

The meeting was called to order at 2:42 p.m.

Minutes: The minutes from the January 20, 2011 meeting were approved unanimously.

Public Input:

- Mr. Pilikian requested public records of all correspondence and emails from the committee to Public Works staff to include all attachments from January 2, 2008 to December 12, 2011. The Committee and staff advised Mr. Pilikan to submit his request to the County Attorney's office.

Old Business:

- The name of the project will be "Northwest Port Charlotte Myakka River Dredging Project". There was question regarding approval by the County Engineering Department. The Committee was advised that the Assistant County Engineer reviewed and approved the project. The design is set for 4 feet depth and to widen the Venus, Apollo, and Cheshire channels by five feet.
- The project is located in a shell fish harvest area. Department of Environmental Protection (DEP) has supplied some new avenues for permitting.
- Coastal Engineering revised the permit information and submitted it using 4 ½ feet as the depth. DEP advised them to proceed with permitting the dredge at 5 feet in depth. The cost will control the depth. If the permit is approved, any future permits in the Northwest Port Charlotte Waterways will be permitted at a depth of 5 feet.
- The Myakka River is not on the Endangered Species Habitat list per the Department of Agriculture. DEP may require the dredging be done during a certain time of the year. The RLI will be submitted during the first week of February with a 30 day allowance for response. Questions will be answered within 90 days. The permit should be ready by early spring. The new scope of service and charges will be good to the end of the project. The plans for the project and the specifications will be written and the MSBU will have to generate the funding for the construction.
- Mr. Fawcett made a motion to proceed with the scope and fees. The motion was seconded by Mr. Bliss and passed unanimously. The Committee will be requesting a rate increase of \$50.00 to fund the dredging project. The amount of the request is the same as the current maximum rate so no Public Hearing would be required.
- Public Outreach is the next step for the Committee. All property owners will be surveyed through a mass mailing.
- Mr. Fawcett will request meetings with two of the Commissioners.
- The Committee will need to meet more often with this project pending.

The next meeting for North West Port Charlotte Waterway is scheduled for January 18, 2012.

The meeting was adjourned at 3:50 p.m.